

## DOINGS OF STAGE FOLKS.

The possibilities of music in the colored race in America present one of the most interesting art problems of the present and future says a writer in the Washington Evening Star. In other arts there has been most gratifying fruition. Mr. Howells has well pointed out that the only American painting ever purchased by the French government is by an Afro-American, the son of Bishop Tanner; that Paul Laurence Dunbar is not the least among living American poets; that Booker T. Washington is today probably America's greatest orator, and that Charles W. Chesnut's stories of southern life give him a right to rank among our best short story writers. In creative music it seems rather curious to say there has been no such achievement as yet, although music is the art in which the colored race would most obviously be expected to excel. Not even in the lower form of musical execution has any really great artist been produced. There is a Black Patti and there is a bronze Melba, but each many miles below her uncolored original. The casual visitor to Washington is always interested in curious harmonies of the colored boys' singing in the streets at night. The only popular songs distinctly American which have commanded permanent acceptance both popularly and critically are Stephen C. Foster's adaptations of Negro melodies; and the greatest of living masters of orchestration and one of the world's great melodists, Antonin Dvorak, found in the Negro songs which he heard during his American life entrancing themes for the construction of a noble symphony and the most fascinating of chamber music. Potent facts such as these indicate that we may ultimately look among colored Americans for composers of music who will do honor to their country and their art, a prediction all the more easily made because of the general recognition given to the work of S. Coleridge-Taylor, a man of African blood, resident in England, whose "Hiawatha's Wedding Feast" has commanded the widest approbation of a high creative gift.

Rosa Lee Tyler, of Chicago, is filling a successful engagement at Keith's Theater, in New York.

The Theodore Drury Grand Opera Company will produce "Carmen" on August 6th at the Park Opera House, Asbury Park, N. J.

Flera Batson is touring in Australia with McAdoo's Georgia Minstrels. She is starred to appear as Leonora in the prison scene from "Il Trovatore."

An address, entitled "From the Stage to Pulpit" was given by the converted actor, Rev. William Francis Ireland, at Bethel church, New York July 6.

Miss Pearl Crawford who has recently returned from England and continental Europe, whither she went touring with the jubilee singers gave a song recital in Chicago July 2, as assisted by local talent.

Will Marion Cook's new operetta, "Jee' Lak White Folks," was one of the features of Cherry Blossom Grove, as the roof garden of the New York Theater is known, during last week. Some forty singers of the race took part in the entertainment and the choruses were excellently sung. It is said that the lyrics for this performance were written by Paul Laurence Dunbar.

## FOUR MORE YEARS OF MCKINLEY.

(Continued from third page.)

\$41,200 annually. This is really conservative estimate and does not take into account a large number who have been appointed since these statistics were gathered, notably five hundred or more employees under Director Merriam in the Census Office, and fully a hundred in the Government Printing Office.

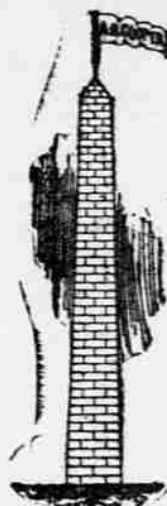
Gen. Grosvenor estimates the salaries paid to colored employees in the other departments of the government and brings forward a recapitulation and grand total, showing that in the army and departments the government paid the colored people last year \$5,538,612. Eager to swell the figures to imposing dimensions, the great forecaster of presidential votes continues:

"Then when we shall have added the salaries of the hundreds of postmasters, deputy postmasters, collectors of customs, collectors of internal revenue, with their thousands of deputies, the numerous watchman, custodians of public buildings in many states, three supervisors of census, and at least 150 enumerators with an average pay of \$50 each, we can readily figure the enormous sum of more than \$6,000,000 drawn by the Negro under the open-handed and generous administration of William McKinley."

This instructive campaign document, which will cause the friends of the race to swell with pride, concludes with a glowing summary of President McKinley's character as a statesman, and recites his strong language in support of the Negro's right of suffrage and in denunciation of mob law. He talks eloquently of the charge at San Juan Hill and finally gives the name of every Negro army officer as well as of every Negro appointed to Federal office, including postmasters and postmistresses. The document fairly scintillates with brilliant epigrams and bristles with pertinent points, and is calculated to make every Negro voter in the land enthusiastic for four years more of the matchless McKinley. Gen. Grosvenor had a splendid opportunity to sound a note of cheer to his colored friends, and he did it—earnestly, sincerely and effectively. We shall not forget him, nor the cause for which he stands.

Champion Checker Player of the World  
Loses His First Game in America  
To a Colored Man.

Columbus, O., Special—J. F. Freeman, of Edinburgh, Scotland, the champion checker player of the world, who is making a tour of this country playing the crack checker players in the United States, was in the city last Friday and gave an exhibition of his skill as a checker player before a select assemblage of about one hundred checker enthusiasts. He played fourteen games, with as many persons, in this city, and the only game he lost out of the fourteen was with Mr. Z. R. Jackson, the Afro American clerk in the State Treasurer's office here. Mr. Freeman, the champion, was in New York two weeks and also spent some time in Philadelphia, play with the crack players in those cities, winning all his games, and the game he lost in this city to Mr. Jackson was the first game he had lost since his arrival in America. When the game was completed Mr. Jackson received the plaudits of all present, for upholding the honor of the city, and Mr. Freeman extended his hand to Jackson and complimented him on his skill as a checker player. It took a colored man to beat the champion of the world.



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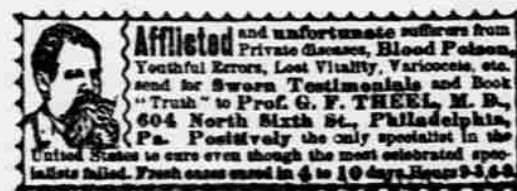
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